

Woodbury GreenTimes

A special environmental edition

November/December 2022



Environmental stewardship identified as a strategic priority

In October, the City Council identified environmental stewardship as one of three strategic priorities for the next two years.

Natural environment and sustainability have been among Woodbury's Critical Success Factors since 1997. Woodbury has re-affirmed its commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship multiple times through the value statements and implementation actions in the 2030 and 2040 Comprehensive Plans, and the adoption of the Critical Success Factor of "Environmental Stewardship" in 2018.

In 2021, the City Council directed staff to work with the Parks and Natural Resources Commission (PNRC) to evaluate the city's work on environmental stewardship and provide a recommendation to the Council regarding future steps.

Woodbury staff convened to evaluate the past 20 years of environmental stewardship, developing an inventory of the city's key accomplishments, events, projects, activities, programs, and policies. The findings were presented to the PNRC in four areas:

- Natural Environment
- Sustainability
- Potable Water
- Surface Water

Throughout the process, there was considerable community enthusiasm, as residents attended City Council and PNRC meetings. The process showed that although the city is a leader in sustainability and environmental issues, with many significant accomplishments, a vision or action plan outlining future sustainability and resilience goals and strategies was needed.

PNRC recommendation

In May, the PNRC recommended that the City Council elevate environmental stewardship as a strategic priority for the next two years.

There will be two focus areas of this work:

Part I: Environmental Stewardship Action Plan – Develop an Environmental Stewardship Plan that includes a robust community engage-



ment process and provides a practical, local approach to city-level environmental stewardship. The plan will develop specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely goals and provide a roadmap for implementation.

Part II: Education and Engagement for Property Owners – Provide guidance to residents about how they can take meaningful action at the individual, household or business level. The PNRC will guide and oversee this work and assist staff in developing this initiative.

Next steps

Establishing this strategic initiative unlocks Woodbury's full potential to be a leader and best serve the interests of present and future residents, and affirms the city's commitment to preserve and enhance our environment for future generations.

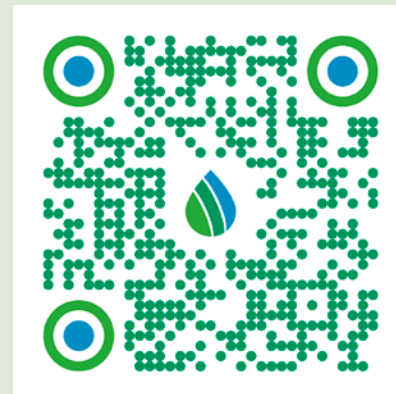
While the established timeline for this work is for 2023-2024, city staff are already working to assemble the management team and determine first steps. This initiative will include a robust community engagement plan, providing a variety of opportunities for interested parties to provide feedback, and be engaged in the process. To stay connected with future events, sign up for the city's InTouch email notification and select the Eco-Interest list.

To learn more about the Environmental Stewardship Strategic Initiative, visit woodburymn.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship.

Environmental Stewardship Strategic Initiative goals:

- Memorialize the city's status as a leader by developing an Environmental Stewardship Action Plan;
- Identify actions that the city and community members can take to sustain and improve the natural environment;
- Foster community engagement aligned with the city's public engagement plan;
- Engage interested parties in research to better understand the risks, rewards and responsibilities for Woodbury;
- Develop specific goals and strategies that support sustainability and resilience;
- Develop a prioritization guide that weighs potential to advance mitigation, adaptation and community equity strategies;
- Better position Woodbury as a contender for resources such as grants and awards;
- Unite the city's environmental programs, initiatives and responsibilities under a single vision, without competing for resources.

Share your thoughts about water efficiency programming!



The city is working to increase use of its water-saving programs. Residents can help by completing a brief online questionnaire at woodburymn.gov/WaterQuestionnaire or by taking a photo of the QR code above. Thank you for your participation!





MINNESOTA WATER
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

Using salt wisely



courtesy cleanwatermn.org

City ramps up street sweeping to protect water bodies

The City of Woodbury and the South Washington and Ramsey-Washington Watershed Districts are teaming up to improve the health of the community's water bodies.

When leaves and other organic debris fall on roadways, they travel through the stormwater system and collect in lakes and wetlands. Leaves and other organic debris provide phosphorus to the water bodies, fueling undesirable plant growth and decreasing the health of the water.



Earlier this year, the city and SWWD analyzed the water quality benefits of street sweeping compared to the cost of labor, fuel, equipment and disposal. Based on the results of the study and with funding support through the South Washington and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Districts, the city was able to increase street sweeping efforts from one week (typically prior to most leaves falling) to three weeks later into the fall.

What is next?

The city, through partnering with the watersheds, is planning to sweep city streets through all of next spring, summer and fall. This ongoing effort will support healthier downstream waterbodies.

Residents can help by keeping leaves, grass clippings and other debris off roadways. Wind and rain can carry those nutrients to downstream water bodies before the sweeper reaches them.

Smart Salting Tips

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recommends a "low-salt diet" to avoid salt pollution in the city's lakes, wetlands and streams this winter.

When snow and ice melts, the salt that was applied moves with it into the city's lakes, streams, wetlands and - eventually - the groundwater. According to the MPCA, it takes only one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water. Once salt and chloride are in the surface water systems, there is no way to remove it. At high concentrations, chloride can harm fish and plant life.

All city staff that apply salt to the city's roadways are Smart Salt Certified, and utilize best practices to reduce salt use while maintaining community safety.

Tips for winter salt use

Shovel

- Clear walkways and driveways of snow before ice forms

Scatter salt or sand appropriately

- Remember salt has no effect when temperatures drop below 15 degrees
- A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway

Sweep

- Clean-up excess salt and sand to reuse as needed

Save money and water by replacing old toilets with WaterSense™ models

Save money and water by replacing old toilets with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense-certified models!



CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT

As part of the city's water conservation program, residents can receive a rebate of up to \$100 for replacing an old toilet with a U.S. EPA WaterSense low-flush model. The rebate is available for up to two toilets per household (\$200 total).

WaterSense labeled products are 20%

more water-efficient and perform as well as, or better than, standard models. The average family can save 13,000 gallons of water and approximately \$140 per year in water costs by replacing an old, inefficient toilet with a WaterSense labeled model.

To learn more, scan the QR code, or visit woodburymn.gov/WaterRebate.



The toilet replacement program is made possible with funding from the Metropolitan Council and Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

